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(c) whether almost all Provincial Governors and sometimes Viceroys also visit the place ;

(d) whether the present merchandise of the coastal villages is diverted at great cost and inconvenience through waterways via Sadras and other places ;

(e) whether any mahazars from the people concerned requesting the construction of a bridge over the canal were received by the Government ; and

(f) whether the Government propose to put up a bridge over the canal ?

A.—(a) There is a ferry, but there is no doubt some inconvenience when there has been much rain.

(b) & (c) Yes.

(d) The Government have no particular information.

(e) No.

(f) There is no such proposal at present.

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" Sir, may I ask the Government to call for an estimate for constructing a bridge ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I will call for an estimate."

Excise

Location of the arrack shops in Bandar.

*1721 Q.—Mr. V. RAMJEE RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Excise Advisory Board of Bandar division in the Kistna district have suggested the abolition of the arrack shop at Bandar Fort and the transfer of the Aravagudem arrack shop to a place near Inguduru slaughter-house ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have ordered the retention of the former one on the same locality and the shifting of the latter to Robertson Square bazaar, a public place in the very heart of the town ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Aravagudem shop is accordingly going to be located in Robertson Square in a conspicuous place on the public road near the market ;

(d) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table of the House the opinion expressed by the Excise Advisory Board for Bandar division as regards the location of the two shops, the remarks of the Collector of the district and the copy of the Government Order thereon ; and

(e) whether the Government propose to issue necessary orders in the circumstances for not locating the shop in the Robertson Square, and if not why ?

A.—(a) & (c) The Government are not aware that the facts are as suggested.

(b) & (d) No orders have been passed by the Government on the subject. The opinion of the Excise Advisory Committee and the remarks of the Collector thereon have not been communicated to the Government.

(e) The Government have called for a report on the subject.

Mr. V. RAMJEE RAO :—"May I know whether the Government are aware that the facts are as such? With regard to (b) and (d), will the Government be pleased to place the report on the table?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I cannot give any undertaking."

Illicit sale of liquor in Masulipatam.

*1722 Q.—Mr. V. RAMJEE RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact

(i) that some of the soda shops in Masulipatam were reported some time ago to be selling liquor secretly,

(ii) that on such a report Mr. H. H. F. M. Tyler, Commissioner of Excise, paid a surprise visit to Masulipatam and held an investigation with a detective staff brought from Ongole or thereabout, and

(iii) that he found the report to be correct ; and

(b) what steps the Government have taken to check this evil?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government are not aware that the facts are as suggested.

Mr. V. RAMJEE RAO :—"As regards (a) and (b) will the Government be pleased to place the report of investigation on the table?"

The hon Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I cannot give that undertaking."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"No undertaking for anything."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Depressed Classes

Alleged elimination of the "Setti Balija" community from the list of depressed classes.

1723 Q.—Mr. J. BHEEMAYYA : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the "Setti Balija" community has been eliminated from the list of the depressed classes, and if so, when and for what reasons and for what purposes ; and

(b) if the answer to clause (a) be in the affirmative, whether the Government be pleased to reconsider their decision and include the "Setti Balija" community in the list of the depressed classes?

A.—A circular to this effect was issued in August last but is being withdrawn, as the Commissioner thinks it undesirable to define rigorously the classes who should be treated as depressed.

Utilization of the grants for the benefit of the untouchable classes.

1724 Q.—Swami A. S. SAHAJANANDAM : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether from 1st April 1927 to this date the Labour department has drawn any amount for the benefit of the untouchable classes and if so, how much ; and

(b) what amount has been spent for the education and housing of the untouchable classes alone during the said period?

A.—The figures will be published in the next administration report.